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Some changes in nomenclature affect North American birds, for instance *Pisobia aurita* (Latham) must become *P. acuminata* Horsf. since Mr. Mathews states that Sharpe was clearly in error when he claimed that Watlings drawing 244, upon which Latham based his name, represented this bird. It is obviously *Actitis hypoleucos*. Mr. Mathews moreover divides the genus *Pisobia* and places this species in *Limnocinclus*; *Actodromas* being a synonym of true *Pisobia* with *P. minuta* as its type.

The name of the Pectoral Sandpiper must change also, since *Tringa maculata* Vieill. is rendered invalid by *T. maculata* Linn. 1766, we therefore return to *pectoralis* of Say.

The American Knot is separated as *Canutus canutus rufus* Wilson while the Japanese race is described as new under the name *C. c. rogersi*.— W. S.

**Mearns on New African Birds.**<sup>1</sup>— In working over the rich collections of African birds in the U. S. National Museum obtained mainly by himself, Dr. Mearns finds the following new Weaver-birds and Thrushes, *Estrilda rhodopyga polia*, from the Gato River, Southern Abyssinia, *E. rhodopyga hypochra*, *Granatina ianthinogastra roosevelti*, *Planesticus helleri*, *P. olivaceus polius*, *Geocichla piaggiae keniensis* and *G. gurneyi raineyi* from British East Africa. While Dr. Mearns' first aim is naturally the description of the new forms obtained by him, ornithologists will await with interest a general account of the collections made on the Smithsonian and the Childs Frick Expeditions which he accompanied as naturalist.— W. S.

**Riley on the Bahama Barn Owl.**<sup>2</sup>— While accompanying the Bahamas Expedition of the Geographic Society of Baltimore a few years ago, Mr. Riley obtained a specimen of a peculiar looking Barn Owl which in the light of additional material now available he describes as new, under the name of *Tyto perlatius lucayanus*.— W. S.

**Shufeldt's Studies of Fossil Birds.**<sup>3</sup>— In the former of two recent publications on North American fossil birds, Dr. Shufeldt presents the results of a reëxamination of the Cope and Condon Collections and a study of

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<sup>1</sup> Descriptions of three new African Weaver-birds of the Genera *Estrilda* and *Granatina*. By Edgar A. Mearns. *Smithson. Misc. Collns.*, Vol. 61, No. 9, pp. 1-4. July 31, 1913.

Descriptions of three New African Thrushes of the Genera *Planesticus* and *Geocichla*. By Edgar A. Mearns. *Smithson. Misc. Collns.*, Vol. 61, No. 10, pp. 1-5. August 11, 1913.

<sup>2</sup> The Bahama Barn Owl. By J. H. Riley. *Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington*, XXVI, pp. 153-154. June 30, 1913.

<sup>3</sup> Review of the Fossil Fauna of the Desert Region of Oregon, with a Description of additional Material collected there. By R. W. Shufeldt. *Bull. Amer. Museum Nat. Hist.*, Vol. XXXII, Art. VI, pp. 123-178. New York, July 9, 1913.

Further Studies of Fossil Birds with Descriptions of New and Extinct Species. By R. W. Shufeldt. *Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist.*, Vol. XXXII, Art. XVI, pp. 285-306. New York, August 4, 1913.